AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. (Previously Amended). A fuel filter comprising a filter body having opposing filter body ends, the filter body defining an internal chamber within which a filter medium is to be located, the filter medium including an outer periphery and a filter member having a first end secured to a support plate, and a second end secured to the filter body, wherein the support plate has an outer periphery which engages the inner surface of the filter body, said first and second ends being secured such that fuel can only flow from the outer periphery of the filter medium to an inner part of the filter medium by flowing through the filter medium, the filter body being of multi-part construction, the parts of the filter body being non-removably, sealingly secured to one another such that the parts of the filter body form an integral whole, the filter body being shaped to define an inlet port and an outlet port communicating with dirty and clean sides of the filter medium, respectively both the inlet and outlet ports being positioned at the same body end of the filter body.

2. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the parts of the filter body are secured to one another be means of a friction welding technique.

3. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the filter medium is a pleated paper filter member.

4. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second end of the filter member is bonded directly to the filter body.

5. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the filter body further defines a second inlet port and a return port.

6. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising a temperature sensitive valve operable to control whether fuel entering the filter body through the second inlet port is supplied to the dirty side of the filter medium or supplied to the return port for return to a fuel reservoir.

7. (Original) The filter as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the temperature sensitive valve comprises a ball valve.

8. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the ball valve comprises a valve member which is moveable under the influence of a bimetallic element.

9. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising a non-return valve member resiliently biased into engagement with a seating to ensure that fuel is able to flow from the second inlet port to the return port, but to substantially prevent fuel and/or gas vapour flow in the reverse direction.

10. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the non-return valve member comprises a plate formed from rubber or a rubber-like material.

11. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a downwardly depending tubular member which is secured to the filter body, the tubular member serving to force fuel flow in a downward direction prior to entering the tubular member, in use.

12. (Previously Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the tubular member is provided with one or more openings through which air is able to flow at a relatively low rate.

13. (Previously Presented) The filter as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the second end of the filter member is bonded directly to the filter body.